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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C

9 December 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LATIMER, OSD

SUBJECT: Organization and Management of the Foreign Intelligence Community

Here are my thoughts relative to the proposed options for intelligence community leadership. I favor a blend of Options 3 and 4 in order to protect the streamlined management and decision making capabilities of the NRO to administer the NRP.

- There needs to be a single source of long-range requirements to the NRO in order to accommodate both the "national" and "tactical" needs. A mechanism similar to the USIB should be retained for this purpose. It should be representative of the national and tactical interests. Inputs of requirements from many sources in the absence of a central mechanism would likely fractionalize the adjudication process and create unnecessary ambiguity.

- There needs to be a single set of priorities for satellite tasking during peace or crisis situations. This is presently handled by the COMIREX/ICPS or the SIGINT/SORS Committees. The mechanism for establishing priorities should be representative of both national and tactical interests. Proper operational control of the satellite systems is more a function of priority establishment than a function of ownership. Ownership is a function of specialized contracting employed by the NRO.

- There needs to be a central resource allocating body for the NRO similar to the present ExCom. A high-level representation is required for facilitating an unambiguous decision process which establishes a clearly defined level of effort.

- The DNRO should be directly responsible to the Secretary or Deputy Secretary for the operation of the program and the expenditure of resources. The NRP should not be competitive for other Defense resources once an appropriate level of effort is established.

- A non-advocacy technical relationship should be established with the Congress in support of the DGI in order to explain the basis of funding required for satellite system development.

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